



Montana

## Department of Labor and Industry

Commissioner's Office

Contact Casey Kyler-West, Communications Director

Contact:

Linda Carlson 406-444-2573  
Director, Office of Community Service

Jackie Girard 406-449-5405

DATE 07-29-08

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Montana Ranks 5<sup>th</sup> in the Nation for Volunteer Rate

Montana jumps from 7<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for its average volunteer rate of 38 percent with more than 284,000 Montana volunteers giving 35.3 million hours of service each year, according to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). Montana also ranked 6<sup>th</sup> for having an average of 47.2 volunteer hours per capita per year.

Montana benefits from the intensive service of more than 8,800 people of all ages and backgrounds that are helping to meet local needs, strengthen communities, and increase civic engagement through 56 national service projects across the state. Serving through Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve America, these citizens tutor and mentor children, coordinate after-school programs, build homes, conduct neighborhood patrols, restore the environment, respond to disasters, build nonprofit capacity and recruit and manage volunteers.

“This is proof that Montana’s greatest natural resource is its people”, says Governor Brian Schweitzer. “It confirms that here in Montana, neighbors help neighbors, which is one of the reasons it continues to be the last best place.”

Each year, CNCS releases a comprehensive report on the state of volunteering in America. This year’s report offers detailed information on volunteering trends and demographics from all 50 states and 163 U.S. cities over a three-year period (from 2005-2007). This year the CNCS will commit to more than \$9.4 million to support national service programs in Montana communities.

To see the report in its entirety log onto [www.volunteeringinamerica.gov](http://www.volunteeringinamerica.gov)

####